

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (original): A wound dressing material comprising a complex of an anionic polysaccharide with silver, wherein the material comprises from about 0.1wt.% to about 3wt.% of silver.

Claim 2 (original): A wound dressing material according to claim 1, wherein the complex comprises a salt formed between the anionic polysaccharide and Ag^+ .

Claim 3 (currently amended): A wound dressing material according to claim ~~1~~ or 2, wherein the anionic polysaccharide is a polycarboxylate.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 2, wherein the anionic polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of alginates, hyaluronates, pectins, carrageenans, xanthan gums, sulfated dextrans, cellulose derivatives, oxidized celluloses and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the amount of silver in the complex is from about 1 to about 50% by weight based on the weight of the anionic polysaccharide.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A wound dressing material according to claim ~~6~~ 1, in the form of a freeze-dried sponge sheet, or a woven or nonwoven fibrous sheet, or a gel sheet.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the wound dressing material comprises from about 0.1wt% to about 10wt% of the complex.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the amount of silver in the wound dressing material is from more than about 0.1wt% to about 2wt.%.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 2, wherein the wound dressing material comprises collagen and oxidized regenerated cellulose (ORC) complexed with silver.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A wound dressing comprising a wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1.

Claim 11 (original): A wound dressing according to claim 10, wherein the wound dressing is sterile and packaged in a microorganism-impermeable container.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): ~~Use according to claim 13, wherein said wounds are chronic wounds such as~~ A method for treating venous ulcers, decubitis ulcers or diabetic ulcers, comprising applying a wound dressing material directly to the surface of the wound; wherein the wound dressing material comprises a complex of an anionic polysaccharide with silver, wherein the material comprises from about 0.1wt.% to about 3wt.% of silver.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (canceled)